(b) if so, whether Government are considering any proposal to appoint a commission to study the status of land reforms over the period, in terms of advantages to dalits; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider this suggestion in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the jurisdiction of State Governments. However, State Governments have been requested from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land, Government wasteland and Bhoodan land to the eligible rural poor, including dalits. As per the information received from State Governments on implementation of land ceiling laws, an area of 50.34 lakh acres has been distributed to 54.05 lakh beneficiaries, of which 39% belong to Scheduled Castes and 16% to Scheduled Tribes.

There is no proposal under consideration to appoint a Commission to study the status of land reforms.

Employment of physically challenged persons

2264. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy to give preference to physically challenged persons in employment;

(b) whether there is any policy to give certain percentage, reserved for such persons, in the matters of services, including judicial services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the future policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a provision of 3% reservation of vacancies in the Government establishments for persons with disabilities in identified posts. The posts of Judges, Magistrates in Lower Judiciary are identified as suitable for persons with disabilities and therefore, reservation is available against the vacancies of these posts.

Special education centres for mentally handicapped

2265. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States/UTs having large number of mentally handicapped persons;

(b) the places where NIMH Model Special Education Centres have been located, to cater to their needs;

(c) whether these centres are sufficient to meet the requirements of all the mentally handicapped persons in the country; and